

Application No. 09/324,249
Amendment date: March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Claim 1. (currently amended): A wireless digital camera apparatus, comprising:

a digital camera including at least a processor, a user interface means, and a memory; ~~wherein said memory contains at least a destination address;~~ an RF communications device connected to said processor; and a remote server address stored in said memory; and

processor control means, ~~responsive to signals received from said user interface means,~~ for automatically

a) establishing a persistent link between said RF communications device and an external network, remote system associated with said destination address whenever possible and the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the external network is not available; and,

b) in response to a signal from said user interface, 1) capturing a digital image, and 2) formatting and transmitting a message, including at least one said digital image, and 3) transmitting each said message to said remote server via said external network, via said RF communications device to the remote system.

Claim 2. (currently amended): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said memory further includes at least one previously defined recipient code, ~~and said~~ user interface further comprises means for selecting a recipient code from said memory, and ~~wherein said message further includes said recipient code.~~

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Claim 3. (currently amended): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for entering a recipient address, and wherein said message further includes said recipient address.

Claim 4. (previously presented): Apparatus of claim 3, wherein said means for entering a recipient address comprises a microphone and voice recognition module.

Claim 5. (currently amended): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for selecting a classification for said digital image, and wherein said ~~control means~~ message further ~~transmits~~ includes said classification ~~with said message~~.

Claim 6. (currently amended): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said user interface further comprises means for creating a digital audio recording, and wherein said ~~control means~~ message further ~~transmits~~ includes said digital audio recording ~~with said message~~.

Claim 7. (Canceled):

Claim 8. (currently amended): Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said memory further includes a user identifier ~~user interface further comprises means for selecting a recipient code from a predefined list stored in said memory, and wherein said message further includes said recipient code~~ user identifier.

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Claim 9. (currently amended): A wireless digital apparatus, comprising:
a processor; ~~and a memory connected to said processor~~ that, wherein
~~said memory contains at least a previously established configuration table~~
and an address associated with a remote ~~system server~~;
user interface means connected to said processor, ~~comprising means for~~
at least displaying a list of recipient codes stored in said configuration
table and receiving signals indicating user selection of a single at least one
recipient code from the displayed list, as well as other user inputs;
an RF communications device connected to said processor; and
processor control means, responsive to signals received from said user
interface means, for transmitting one or more messages including at least
a one recipient code to said remote server, via said RF communications
~~device to said remote system.~~

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Claim 10. (currently amended): Apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a
digital camera connected to said processor, and where each message
data further includes at least one digital image captured by said digital
camera.

Claim 11. (currently amended): Digital photo delivery system comprising:
at least one wireless digital camera apparatus, wherein each said
apparatus includes a processor; a memory; ~~an account identifier and a~~
destination address and at least one or more previously defined recipient
codes stored in said memory; user interface means connected to said
processor for at least displaying one or more said a list of recipient codes
stored in said memory and receiving signals indicating user selection of a
displayed single recipient code from the displayed list; a digital camera
means connected to said processor; a RF communications device
connected to said processor; and processor control means, responsive to
signals received from said user interface means, for transmitting a
message, including at least ~~an account identifier,~~ said selected recipient

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code, and one said digital image, to said destination address via said RF communications device; and
a server associated with said destination address and responsive to messages received at said destination address from each said wireless digital camera apparatus; server memory means for storing account configuration ~~records~~ data including message-recipient code distribution data, ~~and associated with said account identifiers~~; server communications means; and server control means for parsing said ~~account identifier and said-recipient code~~ from each said message, and processing each said message according to ~~message-recipient code distribution~~ account configuration data associated with said ~~account identifier and said~~ recipient code.

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Claim 12. (currently amended): Digital photo delivery system of claim 11, wherein said server control means further comprises means for transmitting account configuration data including at least one recipient code to at least one said wireless digital camera apparatus ~~in response to receiving a signal from said wireless digital camera apparatus~~, and wherein said processor control means of such one said wireless digital camera apparatus is further responsive to said account configuration data to update said memory of such one said wireless digital camera apparatus with at least a portion of said account configuration data.

Claim 13. (currently amended): ~~Digital photo-delivery system~~ apparatus of claim ~~449~~, wherein said RF communications device comprises a wireless packet data transceiver ~~and said processor control means transmits according to a GPRS protocol~~.

Claim 14. (currently amended): ~~Digital photo-delivery system~~ apparatus of claim ~~449~~, wherein said RF communications device comprises a modem capable of establishing a connection to an external network according to

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at least two protocols, and selects an appropriate protocol depending on external network availability suitable for connection to a PSTN and said processor control means comprises a processor for generating commands to link said wireless digital camera apparatus to an Internet service provider network and transmit said message to said destination address.

Claim 15. (currently amended): Digital photo delivery system of claim 11, wherein said server control means further comprises message reply filter means for receiving messages addressed to each said wireless digital camera apparatus and only forwarding to said wireless digital camera apparatus those messages which originate from an address that is authorized for a reply in said account configuration record associated with said wireless digital camera apparatus.

Claim 16. (currently amended): A method in a data processing system for transmitting an image a message to a remote system associated with a predetermined destination address, comprising:
registering establishing a connection with a wireless packet data an external network;
displaying on a user interface component of the data processing system, one or more predefined recipient codes;
receiving user input indicating selection of at least one displayed recipient code;
obtaining a digital image from a digital camera;
formatting a message, including at least one selected recipient code said digital image and an account identifier; and
transmitting said message via said wireless packet data network to said remote system, associated with said predetermined destination address.

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Claim 17. (currently amended) Method of claim 16, further comprising the step of obtaining a digital image from a digital camera, and where said step of formatting a message further comprises including said digital image in said message~~processing said message on said remote system to retrieve one or more preselected recipient addresses corresponding to a recipient code in said message; and retransmitting at least said image to each preselected recipient address.~~

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Claim 18. (currently amended): In a wireless device that includes an RF communications device, a memory containing an address associated with a remote server, a processor, and user interface means, a method for updating ~~configuration table~~user data on the wireless device with ~~configuration table~~user data modified on the remote server, comprising: establishing a communication link between the wireless device and the server via the RF communications device; and transmitting ~~configuration table~~user data from the server to the wireless device.

Claim 19. (new): The wireless device of Claim 18, wherein said user data comprises at least message classification codes.

Claim 20. (new): The wireless device of Claim 18, wherein said user data comprises at least a list of recipient codes.

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Claim 21. (new): A method for archiving and distributing digital images using a digital apparatus with wireless packet data network access and image capture capabilities, comprising:
capturing digital images with the digital apparatus;
transmitting a message including at least one digital image and at least one code to a predefined remote server;
parsing the message at the server and processing each image according to each code.

Claim 22. (new): Method of Claim 21, wherein processing the images further comprises:
selecting at least one set of recipients corresponding to at least one code to whom at least one image is to be sent, each set including at least one recipient; and
sending a message to the at least one selected set of recipients with instructions for accessing at least one image.

Claim 23. (new): Method of Claim 21, wherein processing the images further comprises:
selecting at least one set of recipients corresponding to at least one code to whom at least one image is to be sent, each set including at least one recipient; and
sending a message including at least one image to the at least one selected set of recipients.

Claim 24. (new): Method of Claim 21, wherein said message further includes at least an account identifier.

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Claim 25. (new): A method for archiving and distributing digital images using a digital apparatus with wireless packet data network access and image capture capability, comprising the steps of:
capturing a digital image file and saving it in the apparatus memory with a file name including at least one code;
transmitting said digital image file to a predefined remote server;
parsing the file name at the server and processing the images according to each said code.

Claim 26. (new): Method of Claim 25, wherein said file name further includes an account identifier.

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Claim 27. (new): A wireless digital camera apparatus, comprising:
a digital camera including at least a processor, a user interface, and a memory;
an RF communications device connected to said processor;
a remote server address stored in said memory; and
processor control means for:
a) establishing a persistent link between said RF communications device and an external network when the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the external network is not available, and
b) in response to a signal from said user interface,
1) capturing a digital image,
2) saving said image in said memory with a file name including at least one predefined code, and
3) transmitting said image file to said remote server via said external network.

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Claim 28. (new): A method in a wireless digital camera apparatus including at least a processor connected to an RF communications device, a user interface, and a memory including the address of a remote server, comprising:

- a) establishing a link between said RF communications device and an external communication network when the apparatus is first activated and thereafter whenever the processor detects that the link is not available, and**
- b) in response to a signal from said user interface,**
 - 1) capturing a digital image,**
 - 2) formatting a message including at least said digital image, and**
 - 3) transmitting each said message to said remote server via said external network.**

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Claim 29. (new): A method in a wireless digital camera apparatus including at least a processor connected to an RF communications device, a user interface, and a memory, comprising the steps of:

- a) displaying on the user interface representations of one or more recipients to whom one or more images are to be distributed;**
- b) receiving a first user input indicating selection of a representation displayed on the user interface;**
- c) selecting address data, corresponding to the representation indicated by the first user input, from a configuration table in said memory; and**
- d) in response to each second user input from the user interface,**
 - 1) capturing a digital image, and**
 - 2) formatting a message including at least said image, and**
 - 3) transmitting said message via said RF communications device to a remote system associated with said address data.**

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Claim 30. (new): A method in a data processing system for processing a digital image at a location remotely located from the image capture location, comprising:

- a) receiving a digital image from a digital camera; and**
- b) in response to receiving each digital image, automatically performing the steps of (1) formatting a message, including at least said digital image and a preselected code, and (2) transmitting said message to a remote server associated with a predetermined destination address, and**
- c) processing each said message on said remote system according to data that is associated on said remote system with the code in said message.**

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Claim 31. (new): Method of Claim 30, wherein said processing further including parsing the image from said message and printing the image at a location associated with the code.

Claim 32. (new): A method for initializing a rental device with user preference data, comprising:

- establishing a user id and associated user preference data on a server;**
- associating said rental device with said user preference data; and**
- updating said rental device with at least some of said user preference data.**

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Claim 33. (new) A digital camera comprising:

a mechanism for forming one or more images; and
a distribution mechanism configured to distribute the one or more images from the digital camera to another location by:
displaying on a user interface component of the digital camera, graphics representations of one or more recipients to whom one or more images are to be distributed;
receiving user input indicating selection of a graphic representation displayed on the user interface;
storing, in the digital camera, data corresponding to the graphic representation indicated by the user input;
distributing the data, with the next image formed by the digital camera, to a networked computing device.

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Claim 34. (new) A system for distributing data comprising:

at least one device designed to operate according to configuration data defined by a user;
a user interface coupled to at least one server system via a network wherein said user interface is physically separable from said at least one device and configured to obtain said configuration data from said user and provide said configuration data to said at least one server system;
said at least one server system coupled to said at least one device via said network, wherein said at least one server system is configured to relay said configuration data to said at least one device when said at least one device issues a request for said configuration data.

Claim 35. (new): Method of Claim 16, wherein the connection is established according to a wireless packet data protocol.
